

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 027397

71

ORIGIN SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-03 H-02 DHA-02 AS-01

/020 R

DRAFTED BY SCA:SCS:AAGISE:JFM

APPROVED BY SCA:SCS:AAGISE

SCA:LELAWRENCE (SUB)

ARA:GFALK:(PHONE)

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O 042058Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL MAZATLAN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 027397

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, MX (CLOSE, JACK LAVERNE AKA WILLIAM H. FORD

AND WILLIAMS, WILLIAM H. AKA WAYNE PAUL WRIGHT)

SUBJECT: DEATHS OF TWO US PRISONERS

REF: MAZATLAN 213, HERMOSILLO 52

1. THE ADMINISTRATOR OF SCA HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE FAELL SUBCOMMITTEE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9 ON THE DEATHS OF BOTH CLOSE AND WILLIAMS. THEREFORE, DEPARTMENT WILL NEED AN UP-TO-DATE TELEGRAPHIC STATUS REPORT ON BOTH CASES NO LATER THAN COB THURSDAY FEBRUARY 5. SHOULD ADDITIONAL INFORMATION BE DEVELOPED PRIOR TO NOON WASHINGTON TIME MONDAY FEBRUARY 9 SEND BY IMMEDIATE CABLE ATTENTION DIRECTOR, SCS.

2. FOR MAZATLAN.

PLEASE REPORT RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION ON ALLEGATION OF CONFISCATION OF BARRACAS AS REQUESTED IN STATE 299469 OF UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 STATE 027397

DECEMBER 19. ALSO, INFORMALLY DETERMINE CIRCUMSTANCE OF

HIS DEATH PARTICULARLY HOW IT WAS THAT IF HE HAD JUST
ESCAPED HE WAS ALLOWED TO RETURN TO HIS CELL WITH A PISTOL?
(IN MAZATLAN 213 THE WEAPON IS DESCRIBED AS "HIS" PISTOL.)
WERE OTHER AMERICANS INVOLVED IN THIS ESCAPE ATTEMPT? DOES
POST BELIEVE THAT ABOVE MYSTERIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES OF DEATH
WARRANT REQUEST FOR A COMPLETE AUTOPSY, I.E. ARE THERE ANY

INDICATIONS OF MISTREATMENT AFTER ESCAPE ATTEMPT, ANY
MARKS ON CORPSE, ETC.?

3. FOR HERMOSILLO.

IF POST HAS NOT YET HEARD FROM DR. HIRSCH PLEASE TELE-
PHONE. POST MAY ADVISE DR. HIRSCH THAT DEPARTMENT WILL
BE TESTIFYING IN EXECUTIVE SESSION MONDAY ON THIS CASE.
IN REGARD TO TESTIMONY DEPARTMENT ANTICIPATES BEING
QUESTIONED CLOSELY ON WHAT ARRANGEMENTS HAVE NOW BEEN WORK
ED OUT WITH MEXICAN OFFICIALS IN CASE OF FUTURE INCIDENTS
OF THIS KIND TO INSURE THAT AMERICAN PRISONERS ARE NOT
CAUGHT IN A CATCH 22 SITUATION BETWEEN HOSPITAL AND
PRISON AUTHORITIES. FURTHER, HOW MANY US PRISONERS ARE
CURRENTLY IN YOUR DISTRICT AND WHAT IS THE GENERAL STATE
OF THEIR HEALTH? INGERSOLL

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